NRCS
Natural Resources Conservation Service
6200 Jefferson NE
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87109
Phone: (505) 761-4400 **Fax**: (505) 761-4462
Web site: www.nm.nrcs.usda.gov

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: NWS - Ed Polasko (505) 244-9147
NRCS – Richard Armijo (505) 761-4428

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WATER SUPPLY FORECAST FOR NEW MEXICO – JANUARY 2006

Coordinated Release: National Weather Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service

The water supply forecast for New Mexico through the spring snow melt season ranges from below normal to well below normal runoff.

Forecast flows on the Rio Grande include 55 percent of normal into Cochiti Lake and 45 percent of normal into Elephant Butte Lake. Other forecast flows into reservoirs range from 61 percent of normal at El Vado Lake to 30 percent of normal into Jemez Canyon Reservoir. Inflow to Conchas Lake is forecast to be 42 percent of normal while inflow to Santa Rosa Lake is expected to be 43 percent of normal.

Navajo Reservoir is expecting 66 percent of normal inflow, while flow in the Animas River is forecast at 77 percent of normal. Flow from streams originating in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains of New Mexico and feeding into the Rio Grande should range from 40 to 67 percent of normal.

Precipitation across New Mexico during December 2005 ranged from well below average to barely trace amounts. Seasonal precipitation, October through December 2005, ranged from below average to well below average. Seasonal precipitation through December in south central and southwest Colorado is also below average.

Surveys by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service indicate that snowpack water content in the Rio Grande basin as of January 1 was 27 percent of normal and 31 percent of one year ago. In the San Juan basin the snowpack water content is 42 percent of normal and 37 percent of the total of January 1, 2005.

Looking at historical January 1 snowpack amounts in the New Mexico portion of the Rio Grande Basin going back to 1995, the current early snowpack is the worst since 1996. The meager early January snowpack years since 1995 were 1996 and 2000, while the best January snowpack years were 1997 and 1995.

Snowpack in the southern Sangre de Cristo Mountains (west of Las Vegas) is especially low as December precipitation was about 15 percent of normal and October through December precipitation was less than 50 percent of normal. Snowpack in the Gila Mountains of southwest New Mexico is at low levels not seen since 1981 as October through December 2005 precipitation was less than 35 percent of normal.

In the Colorado high country headwaters of the Rio Grande Basin, snowpack water content as of January 1, 2006 was 34 percent of normal and only 29 percent of one year ago.

New Mexico reservoir storage is well below normal in the Rio Grande Basin and the Canadian Basin, near normal in the Pecos Basin, and above normal at Navajo Lake. In the Rio Grande basin, storage is 49 percent of the 1971 to 2000 normal and 182 percent of last years storage at this time. In the San Juan basin, Navajo Reservoir storage is 118 percent of the 30 year normal, and 155 percent of the storage of one year ago.

This water supply forecast reflects conditions as of January 1, 2006 and assumes near normal precipitation through the spring season.

	SNOTEL Data January 1 Water Content Inches	1971-2000 Average Water Content Inches
Chamita	1.5	3.9
Red River	0.9	3.5
Cumbres Trestle	3.4	10.6
Wolf Creek Summit	4.4	14.3

Water Supply Forecast
As of January 1, 2006

National Weather Service — Albuquerque, New Mexico

Stream and Station	Forecast Coordinated with NRCS			30-Year Avg (1971-2000) 1000 AF
San Juan Basin	Forecast Period	Forecast 1000 AF	% of 30 Year Avg	
San Juan River				
Navajo Reservoir Inflow	April - July	520	66	785
Los Pinos River				
Vallecitos Reservoir Inflow	April - July	155	76	205
Animas River				
Durango, Colorado	April - July	340	77	440
Rio Grande Basin				
Rio Grande				
Del Norte near Colorado	April - September	395	74	531
Otowi Bridge, New Mexico	March - July	415	55	757
San Marcial,New Marcial	March - July	255	45	573
Conejos River				
Mogote near Colorado	April - September	135	68	200
Rio Chama				
El Vado Reservoir Inflow, New Mexico	March - July	145	61	237
Chamita near New Mexico	March - July	175	56	312
Pecos River				
Pecos River near New Mexico	March - July	27	47	58
Santa Rosa Reservoir Inflow	March - July	23	43	53(+)
(+) Estimated 30 Year Average				
Canadian Basin				
Canadian River				
Conchas Reservoir Inflow	March - June	30	42	71